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Approved For Release 2000/08/07 : CIA-RDP96-00787R000700110005-0

DIST 3647-15

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : Office of Research and Development and
Office of Technical Service Paranormal
Perception Research Project

1. It is recommended that a research and development investigation of paranormal perception phenomena be initiated with Stanford Research Institute (SRI). A proposal for such an investigation is attached. Since this is a tightly directed advanced research project, it is further recommended that the effort be jointly funded and monitored by the Office of Research and Development and the Office of Technical Service. The estimated cost for the proposed effort is \$149,555.

2. The objectives of the proposed effort are twofold. The initial emphasis of the investigation will be to characterize and develop paranormal remote perception abilities which appear to have been demonstrated under controlled laboratory conditions by SRI. Since these phenomena are unexplained and largely unexplored, the second objective would be to collect sufficient data and information to guide the development and assess the value of a more comprehensive program.

3. A previous OTS project, summarized in the attached proposal, indicated the existence of paranormal perception phenomena. The phenomena include remote perception of documents, objects, activities and locations. The demonstrated reproducibility of such remote perception under controlled conditions strongly suggests these phenomena are and will continue to be interesting to the intelligence community for either offensive operational exploitation or defensive threat assessment.

4. The proposed effort will be concentrated in the areas described in the Statement of Work section of the attached proposal. In summary these are: a) Characterization of the remote perception abilities of gifted subjects,

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with emphasis on those characteristics of most importance to intelligence matters such as resolution, information transfer rate and accuracy; b) Correlation of physiological responses to reliability and accuracy of paranormal perception; c) Enhancement of those abilities which seem to be most useful to the intelligence community; and d) Exploration of new avenues of research discovered during the course of the program.

5. The proposed project is well suited to a joint effort by the Office of Research and Development and the Office of Technical Service. The proposed investigation is a tightly directed advanced research project. It involves the exploration of a demonstrated phenomena to determine the significance and limitations of remote perception abilities of "gifted" individuals for intelligence collections. Necessarily a parallel effort elucidating the fundamental nature of the paranormal perception phenomena is proposed. This fundamental information is required in order to develop an orderly comprehensive program which would lead to the basic understanding essential for the full exploitation of the phenomena for intelligence activities. It is expected that the combination of attitudes and experiences represented by OTS and ORD will produce timely relevant results and insure an objective assessment of the significance of those results.

6. The recommended project should be completed by Stanford Research Institute. SRI has produced some of the most significant investigations in paranormal phenomena. This has occurred because of the philosophies and abilities of the principal investigators. These investigators have established competence in the physical sciences and in paranormal phenomena research. They have been responsive to past OTS directives and are willing to investigate intelligence related applications. SRI has given these investigators the institutional integrity and facilities necessary to achieve creditable research in both the public and a more restrictive private domain.

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7. Although the controversy associated with paranormal research may create some unique security problems, they are not insurmountable. These problems include embarrassment of being involved in an assumed fraud; the potential adverse propaganda associated with the use of psychic mind altering or control techniques, and the fact that some subjects may be of questionable stability. These potential problems can be controlled because of the motivation and integrity of the principal investigators. Both the investigators and the Institute have solid reputations and derive much of their support from government projects. Involvement with fraudulent experiments, publication of poor experimentation and open association with CIA would be deleterious to the careers of the investigators and the creditability of the Institute. For this effort, we recommend a secret level contract but remain flexible to other security arrangements which could be implemented as deemed necessary.

John N. McMahon
Director
Office of Technical Service

Sayre Stevens
Director
Office of Research and Development

Enclosure:
Proposal

APPROVED: _____
Date

Carl E. Duckett
Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

Substitute for paragraph 3

The objectives of the proposed effort are four-fold. Approximately 50% of the effort will be directed towards the investigation of the opportunities for the operational use of "gifted" individuals; twenty percent will be directed toward establishing those characteristics which will enable us to identify "gifted" subjects; twenty percent will be directed toward investigation of the neurophysiological correlates of paranormal activities; ten percent will be directed toward validation of paranormal experiments.